

Spring 1-15-2008

ENG 3803-001: British literature

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**English 3803 Section 001
British Literature 1500-1660
Spring 2008
Prof. Carol Stevens**

**Contact Information:
Office Coleman Hall 3861
Hours 2:00-3:00 T and Th, 1:30-4:30 Wed.,
and by appointment except as otherwise announced
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**Texts: Abrams, et al. *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 7th edition Vol.1
(needed every day)
Erickson, *The First Elizabeth* (needed as specified.)
Other materials as presented, including today's assignment**

Course Goals: By the end of this semester I hope you will be able to

- 1. Read with understanding and enjoyment the works of writers in sixteenth and early seventeenth century England.**
- 2. Understand the background, development, and nature of literary forms and genres in this period.**
- 3. Be aware of historical, social, and cultural forces which shaped the Tudor and Stuart monarchies and the Interregnum and Restoration, as they are reflected in the literature.**
- 4. Be able to identify and explain some of the major intellectual movements of the period as they are discussed in the literature.**
- 5. Be able to explicate texts from the period both orally and in writing with skill and understanding.**
- 6. Read and understand developing theories about the nature of literature.**
- 7. Read and apply more recent works of literary theory and criticism to your studies in this period.**

Course description: England during the period from 1500 to 1660 is an age of enormous turmoil in politics, religion, science, law, even family life. Fortunately for us, the age generated some great writing by some of the most widely-recognized names in British Literature: More, Sidney, Spenser, Wroth, Elizabeth I, Shakespeare, Milton etc. Through the work of these artists and others, we will examine central issues of humanism, Platonism, reformation, development, and innovation in form and style, arguments in literary criticism, major debates in literature and philosophy, and politics, including the politics of writing and publishing.

Grades: Will use numbers instead of letters, will be based on 100 points, and will not be curved.

Attendance, participation, group work, response writing, quizzes 20

First paper 20

Second paper 25

Midterm Exam 15

Final Exam (comprehensive) 20

A=91-100, B=80-90, C=70-79, D=65-70, below 65=F

Responsibilities and Policies:

1. Come to class every meeting, and keep the lines of communication open. Late work gets lowered grades unless we've come to a clear understanding before the due date.
2. No notebook computers, cell phones, mp3 players, etc. on our out in the classroom. At all, ever, except as prescribed by the office of disability services. They are a distraction, and according to recent research impede learning for everyone, not just the person using them.
3. More than two absences will result in a deduction from your point total of 1 point for every class missed. More than six, and you will not pass the course. But there will be points added for students who contribute to discussion and write clear, articulate, and thoughtful responses to reading.
4. Honor policy: The ethics of academic honesty dictate that students do their own work—always. Taking someone else's words or thoughts and using them in your own writing without giving credit is plagiarism, as is cheating on exams, improper or patchwork documentation etc. If I catch anyone doing this, they will fail the course and be reported to Judicial Affairs.
5. Paper Format: papers and class responses should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and type no larger than 12-point (the size of the font in this handout.) Your name, the course and section number, and the date should appear at the top of the first page, with the title of your paper centered below it. Citations/documentation must be in MLA style.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. Accommodations will be made only with letters from the ODS and will follow the prescriptions exactly.

Please note: A policy statement and syllabus are tentative documents. Changes in any part, including grading, will be announced in class, and such announcement will be considered sufficient notice of such change.

Important Dates:

First paper Feb. 7

Second paper April 10

Mid-term Exam Feb. 28

Final Exam Thurs. May 1 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Syllabus
English 3803
Spring 2008
Prof. Stevens

Dates indicate when assignments must be completed to be discussed in class. All selections are from The Norton Anthology of English Literature Vol. 1 unless otherwise indicated.

1/8 Introduction to course, policies, procedures, each other. First in-class writing, based on engraving from *The Extravagant Shepherd*.

1/10 Norton, Introduction to 16th Century beginning p. 469; bio. and selection from More's *Utopia*, beginning p. 503 .

1/15 Poetry of Wyatt beginning 525—all.

1/17 Poetry of Surrey beginning 569—all.

1/22 Translation and religious literature: The Bible, beginning 539, Anne Askew, from 547, Foxe's *Acts and Monuments*, beginning 551, *Book of Common Prayer* from "The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony" beginning 553.

1/24 Continue " "

1/29 Hoby, translation of Castiglione's *The Courtier*, beginning 577, Ascham, *Toxophilus* and *The Schoolmaster*, beginning 563 etc.

1/31 " "

2/5 Begin viewing of film *A Man for All Seasons*

2/7 Complete " "

2/12 Discuss " " in context of literature to date; catch-up.

2/14 Carolly Erickson, *The First Elizabeth* must be read by today. Discuss, and use to set up discussion of Elizabethan literature.

2/19 In Norton, Sir Philip Sidney, selections from *Astrophil and Stella* beginning p. 909 (1, 7, 31, 39, 74), as well as "Thou blind man's mark, and "Leave me, O Love" and Shakespeare Sonnets 1, 18, 20, 29, 55, 73, 129, 138.

2/21 " "

2/26 A Dialogue in Poetry: Spenser's Shepheardes Calendar, 616, Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," 989, Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd," 878, Donne, "The Bait," 1247, Mary (Sidney) Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, "A Dialogue between two shepherds, Thenot and Piers" (on handout)

2/27 Spenser, intro. *The Fairie Queene, Book I*

3/4 " " " and Review.

3/6 Midterm Exam, full period and no exceptions

3/11-3/13 Mid-term break

3/18 Spenser, Sonnets from *Amoretti*, beginning 863, and *Epithalamion* 868, Sidney, *Defense of Poesy*, 933.

3/20 Marlowe, *Tragical History of Dr. Faustus* beginning 990.

3/25 Queen Elizabeth, short poems beginning 593 and "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury", "The Golden Speech."

3/27 Amelia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*, 1282-1287, "Description of Cookeham" beginning 1287.

4/1 Poetry of John Donne, beginning 1233: "The Flea," "The Good Morrow," "Song: Go and catch a falling star," "The Sun Rising," "The Canonization," "A Valediction forbidding Mourning," "Elegy 19: To His Mistress Going to Bed."

4/3 " " " The Holy Sonnets, beginning 1268, plus "Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward," "A Hymn to God the Father," and the prose Devotions upon Emergent Occasions," both sections. Walton, "Donne on His Deathbed," beginning 1582.

4/8 Poetry of Ben Jonson, pp. 1292-1399, plus "To Penshurst" and other selections as time permits.

4/10 Poetry of Lady Mary Wroth, from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*, beginning 1428.

4/15 Bacon (all, beginning 1528, Burton from *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Browne (all), Hobbes (from *Leviathan*, all.)

4/22 Herbert, Suckling and Lovelace, Milton poetry TBA.

4/24 Milton Prose TBA and review.

Thursday May 1 12:30-2:30 final exam